



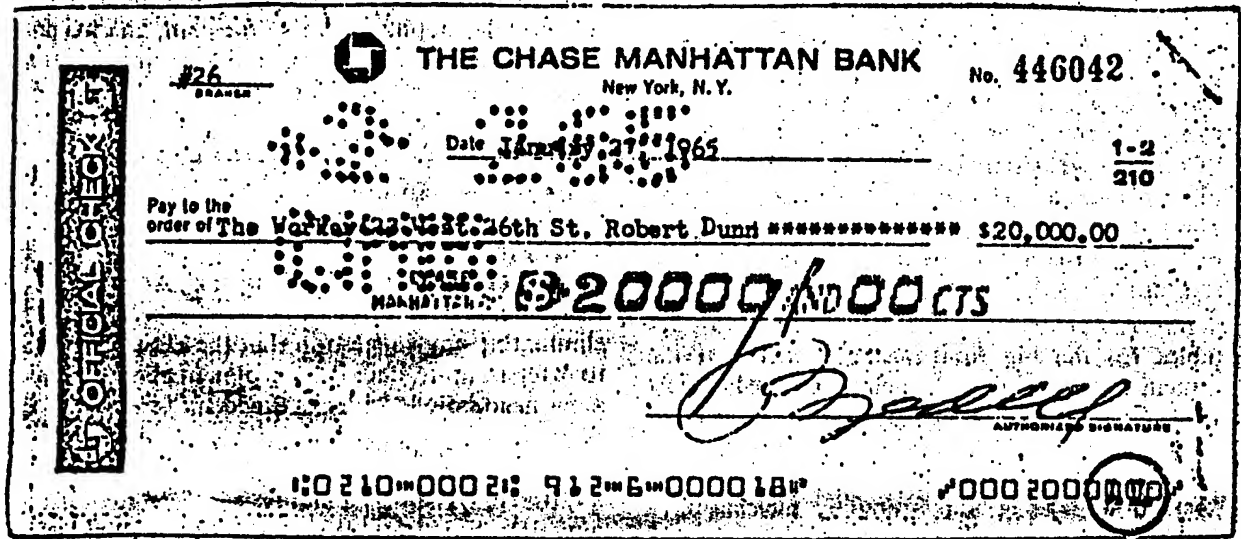
The King-USSR Connection

# How the Soviets Funded American Communists

By REP. JOHN M. ASHBROOK (R-Ohio)

On Feb. 6, 1980, the House Intelligence Committee heard testimony from John McMahon, then the deputy director for operations for the Central Intelligence Agency. McMahon, one of the most experienced and highly regarded CIA officials, was describing to the Committee how the Soviet Union carried out their covert action which they call "active measures" against the free world. These are the Soviet operations to influence events in the

Actually, I already knew a great deal about this Soviet operation in our country. As the ranking minority member of the House Committee on Un-American Activities and later the Internal Security Committee, I was able to trace the Soviet subsidies for U.S. Communist party publications from the Soviet Bank for Foreign Trade through a Paris bank owned by the Soviet Union to the Chase Manhattan Bank and into the coffers of the Communist Party, U.S.A. The Paris bank, Banque Commerciale Pour L'Europe Du Nord, is often



Reproduced above is a Chase Manhattan check for \$20,000 made payable to the Communist party publication, The Worker. This check was drawn on the order of the Bank for Foreign Trade in Moscow through a Soviet-owned bank in Paris. It was one of many.

target countries. They include forgeries, media placement, agents of influence, and funding of Communist and subversive groups.

McMahon described how the Soviets channeled \$50 million a year to the Communist parties of the free world. I asked him how much of that comes into the United States. He responded that the CIA does not trace Soviet operations in this country and that we should get the information from the FBI.

used to launder Soviet funds to Communist and terrorist groups in the free world.

I also knew something even more startling. Herb Romerstein, a House Intelligence Committee staffer who pays close attention to these matters, had briefed me on a top-secret FBI penetration of the Communist party apparatus that was smuggling in

**CONTINUED**

KGB cash for the use of the American Communists. I know much more, but unlike the liberals, I cannot reveal information that is still classified.

I am free to discuss this one aspect, however, because a recent book by David J. Garrow, *The FBI and Martin Luther King, Jr.*, has now revealed the identities of the men who penetrated the super-secret Communist operations for the FBI.

For almost three decades two brothers, Morris and Jack Childs, had been FBI informants deep in the apparatus that transferred Soviet funds to the CPUSA for subversive activities in the United States. According to the book, they had revealed to the FBI that one of their co-workers in the apparatus was Stanley Levison, a white lawyer who served as the chief, behind-the-scenes, adviser to Martin Luther King Jr. Jack Childs died last year, but his brother Morris continued to serve the FBI, undercover, until the publication of the Garrow book. In a rare example of FBI humor, the brothers were called by the code name "Solo."

The brothers had been Communist party members long before they agreed to cooperate with the FBI. Morris Childs was a member of the Communist party's National Committee. He had served as editor of the *Daily Worker* and as the state leader of the party in Illinois. But, even more important, he had close associations with the Soviet Communist party and intelligence agencies.

In 1931, he served as a Communist International official in Moscow directing the American Communist students at the Lenin School, the Soviet's international training school. He was a close associate of Solomon Lozovsky, a high Soviet official who ran the Communist-controlled Red International of Labor Unions, which was closely linked to the Soviet intelligence service. Lozovsky was arrested by the Soviet secret police in 1949 or 50 and was murdered in 1952 during one of the periodic anti-Semitic purges. It may be that the brothers' break with communism was caused by their observations of the true nature of the Soviet regime.

The Garrow book is sympathetic to King and his adviser, Levison. Nevertheless, it confirms the information that many of us had concerning the Communist influence on King's activities. As the FBI files on the Martin Luther King case have been sealed for 50 years, to avoid embarrassment to King's family and supporters, the Garrow book becomes particularly significant.

According to the book, Levison dropped out of the Communist financial manipulations and established a relationship with King in the late 1950s. Members of Levison's family revealed to Garrow that Levison had been associated since 1965 with Victor Lessiovski, a top Soviet official at the United Nations. They told him that they suspected that Lessiovski was a KGB agent. Indeed, he is. Lessiovski, until recently the personal assistant to the secretary-general of the United Nations, is one of the highest-ranking KGB officers ever to serve in the United States. His relationship to Levison shows that the adviser to King remained under KGB control even after leaving the Communist party financial apparatus.

Garrow also reveals that it was Levison who recommended fellow Communist Hunter Pitts O'Dell, also known as Jack O'Dell, to be an employe of King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference. O'Dell, then a National Committee member of the Communist party, became a highly trusted King aide. He now works for Jesse Jackson in Operation PUSH.

It was the activities of these two Communists, Levison and O'Dell, that caused Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy to authorize the famous wiretaps on King. According to Garrow, Kennedy tried on a number of occasions to convince King to get rid of his Communist advisers. King would promise to do so, but each time slipped Levison and O'Dell in through the back door.

The 50-year seal on the Martin Luther King file leaves many questions unanswered. One of these is: Did King get any of the Soviet money? Another is: What role, if any, did the Soviets play in moving King from civil rights activities to anti-Vietnam War agitation?

Sooner or later skullduggery always gets revealed. Now we know some of the details of the Soviet financial support for Communist and subversive activities in the United States. Will we really have to wait 50 years before learning the whole truth about Martin Luther King?

*Rep. Ashbrook is completing his 21st year as a member of the House of Representatives. He serves on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the House Judiciary Committee, and as ranking minority member of the House Education and Labor Committee. He formerly served as ranking minority member of the House Committee on Un-American Activities and the House Committee on Internal Security.*